

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 8, 11-13, 16 and 19-27 are pending. By this amendment, claims 1, 2 and 21 are amended and claim 27 is added. The feature of a base having a ribbed structure can be found in original paragraph [0041], for example.

An Information Disclosure Statement is being filed with this Amendment. It is requested that the Examiner consider the references cited in that Information Disclosure Statement and return an initialed Form PTO-1449 in the next Office Action.

Restriction was required and Applicants elected claims 1-5, 8, 11-13, 16, 19 and 20. With respect to non-elected claims 21-26, it is respectfully requested that they be rejoined as they are directed to the structure substantially found in Figs. 2 and 3, which is the same structure that makes up the subject matter of claim 1. Thus, claims 21-26 are drawn to the same species and should be considered.

Claims 1-5, 8, 11-13, 16, 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, and 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, because the terms "rigidly" and "flexibly" are allegedly not supported by the original specification. By this amendment, the claims have been amended to recite "directly" and "elastically" as explicitly supported by paragraphs [0037] and [0045], for example, of the original specification. It is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 20. By this amendment, claim 27 has been added to recite the original features of claims 1 and 20.

Claims 1-5, 8, 11-13, 16 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yamaguchi et al. (Yamaguchi), U.S. Patent No. 6,166,498, in view of Matsuura et al. (Matsuura), U.S. Patent No. 5,460,234. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 calls for a control board mounted to a base having a ribbed structure to control the drive unit, with the base supported through the vibration proof mechanism on the drive unit.

Page 4 of the Office Action asserts that Yamaguchi discloses a base in Fig. 3. Although Yamaguchi may disclose a base from which the control board is mounted, the base does not have a ribbed structure. The only ribbed structure illustrated in Fig. 3 is directly above Yamaguchi's drive motor 25. However, this ribbed structure is not associated with a base from which the alleged control board (control boards 57a and 57b) is mounted.

Matsuura fails to overcome the deficiencies of Yamaguchi because Matsuura fails to illustrate a ribbed structure. Matsuura is simply being provided to suggest the concept of a vibration proof mechanism.

In addition, Applicants reinstate the arguments presented in the June 4, 2008 Amendment in view of the use of "directly" and "elastically," which can be explicitly found in Applicants' specification.

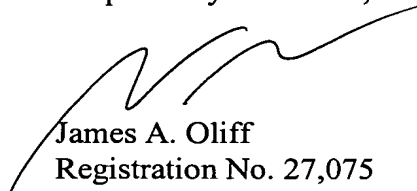
By providing a base having a ribbed structure, a base can be provided that is structured for heat dissipation, is light-weight and has high rigidity (paragraph [0041] of Applicants' specification). Therefore, the control board, which is in the form of a thin plate to be liable to flex, and to generate membrane vibrations upon resonance when vibrations are applied, is fixed to the base having a ribbed structure with a high rigidity. With the high rigidity, the control unit section can be improved in vibration proof performance. Also, even when the control unit section vibrates, the vibration proof material can damp propagation of vibrations to the control board so that the control unit section can be improved as a whole and vibration proof performance can be improved by protecting the control board that is susceptible to the vibrations. Neither Yamaguchi nor Matsuura discuss this advantage, and thus neither reference discloses or suggests the base of claim 1.

It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Scott M. Schulte
Registration No. 44,325

JAO:SMS/mcp

Date: September 26, 2008

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 320850
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
--